

# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

## Mission

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

To fulfill its mission, FWP solicits feedback from Montanans and develops action plans to ensure the agency achieves meaningful results.

A citizen commission, appointed by the Governor, determines the policies and regulations that support the management and protection of the state's fish, wildlife, and parks resources in order to provide outdoor opportunities for present and future generations of Montanans.

## The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission

Dan Walker, commission chairman, from Billings, is a retired executive from US West Communications. (Term expires Jan. 1, 2005)

Timothy J. Mulligan, commission vice-chairman, is owner of the Corner Store Conoco in Whitehall and is involved in his family's homestead ranch in Cardwell. (Term expires Jan. 1, 2003)

Darlyne Dascher is a partner in a ranch operation north of Fort Peck and works as the local brand inspector. (Term expires Jan. 1, 2003)

John Lane of Cascade operates a portion of the family ranch and is a member of the Devil's Kitchen Management Team, which works with FWP in managing wildlife resources in the area. (Term expires Jan. 1, 2005)

Michael Murphy, a Wolf Creek rancher, has been executive director of the Montana Water Resources Association since 1993. (Term expires Jan. 1, 2005)

# centennial communication

FWP's Centennial celebrated the state's conservation legacy, acknowledging the previous 100 years of conscious decisions and difficult personal sacrifices on the part of Montanans to conserve what is best about this state. Renowned western artist Larry Zabel created "Sun River Challenge," an original oil painting that commemorates the 1947 creation of the Sun River Game Range. FWP published a special edition of *Montana Outdoors* magazine, produced an award-winning documentary film, "No Need for a Saturday Night," and celebrated in other ways around the state.

Black and grizzly bear identification skills will be tested before hunters can obtain a black bear license under a new mandatory bear identification program. The intent is to save grizzlies and Montana's black bear season. The training and test are available by mail at FWP regional offices, the Helena headquarters office or on line at [fwp.state.mt.us](http://fwp.state.mt.us).



The Remedial Hunter Education program, authorized by the 2001 Legislature, is the only way for individuals who have had their hunting privileges suspended to regain those privileges. Designed to strengthen hunter ethics and awareness, the program is available by mail or at [fwp.state.mt.us](http://fwp.state.mt.us) at the Hunter Education icon.

Construction of the Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center is underway, while fundraising for the \$800,000 project continues. Later phases may include additional interpretation and education facilities. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation, the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals, and the U.S. Forest Service are partners in building the facility.

The Hooked On Fishing Nat On Drugs program now includes 109 classrooms, and this year 36,000 Montanans enjoyed fishing clinics, special events, and school-related aquatic education programs. Montana Watercourse-Project WET, Federation of Fly Fishers, school districts, and teachers partnered with FWP to generate funds to match the nearly \$300,000 in federal funding that FWP's aquatic education program attracts.

# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

The Parks Division is responsible for development, maintenance, and operation of all state parks and affiliated sites in order to provide diverse recreational opportunities while preserving important historical and cultural resources within Montana.

The Wildlife Division is responsible for managing all species of Montana wildlife including big game, threatened and endangered species, upland game birds and non-game birds, and waterfowl.

The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management and perpetuation of Montana's fish and other aquatic resources and the habitat they depend on.

The Conservation Education Division prepares and distributes information on FWP activities and news items to the media and conducts a variety of educational and recreation-safety programs.

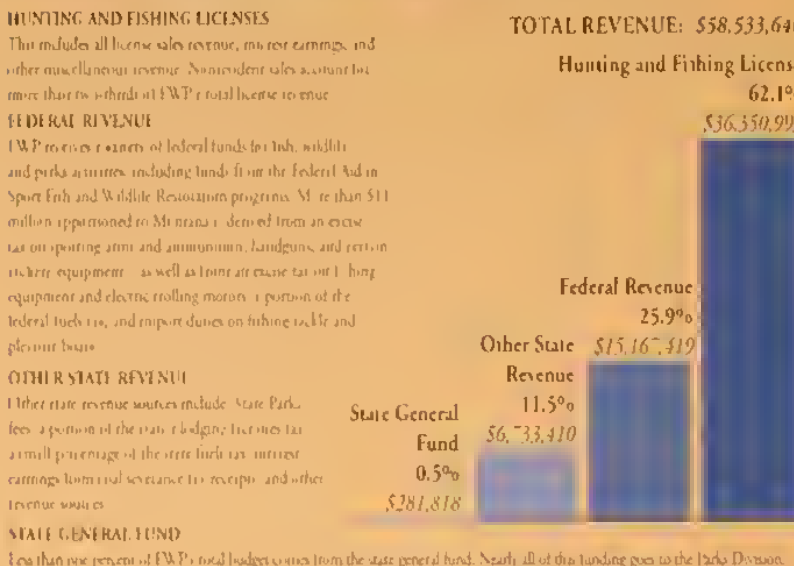
The Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing the laws of Montana, FWP rules, and FWP Commission regulations related to fish, wildlife, and parks. Division personnel also enforce state boating and automobile rules and laws related to private property.

The Field Services Division is responsible for FWP's lands program and construction projects, as well as its Block Management (public hunting access) and landowner-hunter relations program.

The Director's Office staff makes policy and administrative decisions. Regional supervisors manage on-the-ground implementation of policies and programs. The Administration and Finance Division is responsible for budgeting, accounting, purchasing, human resources, data processing, and administration of FWP's licensing functions.

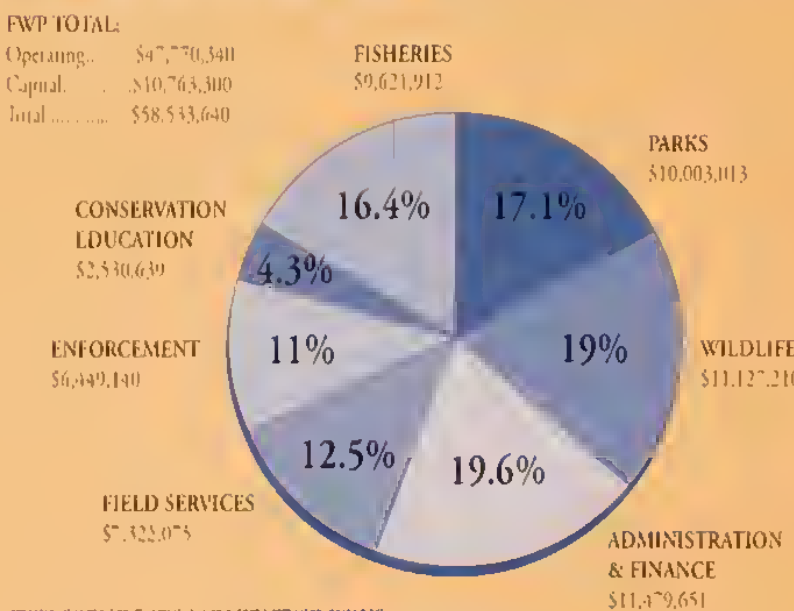
# Revenue sources

FWP is funded primarily by user fees. Funding sources include:



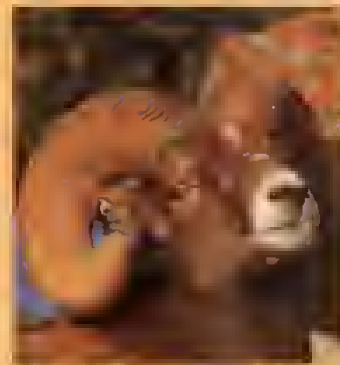
The revenue sources here illustrate how FWP expenditures are funded. Actual annual revenues may fall above or below the revenues in this illustration.

# Planned expenditures

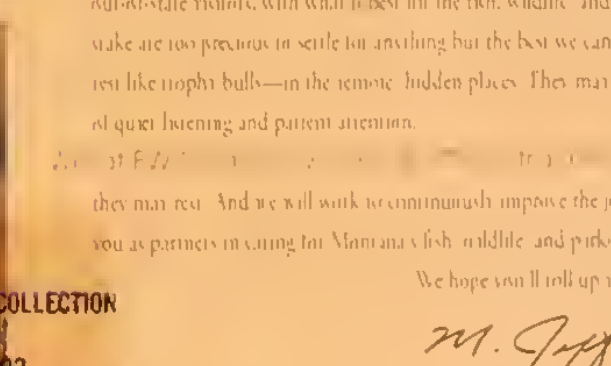
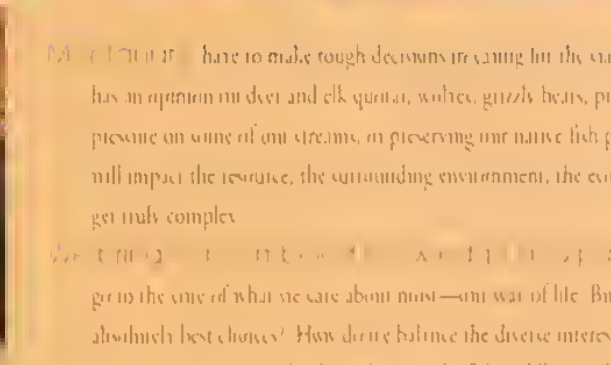


FWP SPENDS ITS MONEY TWO WAYS: Operations for day-to-day management of fish, wildlife, and parks resources. Capital to make major repairs and maintain FWP properties, to renovate and build facilities, and to protect and enhance critical habitats.

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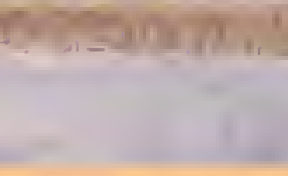
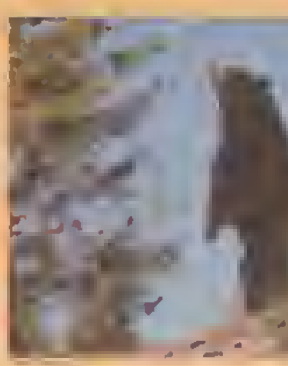


# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



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FAITHFUL TO IT, we have to make tough decisions in caring for the state's fish, wildlife, and parks. Everyone has an opinion on deer and elk quotas, wolves, grizzly bears, prairie dogs, managing recreational pressure on some of our streams, or preserving our native fish populations. Factor in how a decision will impact the resource, the surrounding environment, the economy, and public safety, and things get truly complex.

WE'VE COME TO THE POINT WHERE WE HAVE TO START making the decisions that go to the core of what we care about most—our way of life. But, how do we ensure we're making the absolutely best choices? How do we balance the diverse interests and needs of Montanans—and our neighbor-state partners, with what is best for the fish, wildlife, and parks in our care? The incentives at stake are too precious to settle for anything but the best we can do. I imagine the best choices may rest like trophic bulls—in the remote, hidden places. They may only show themselves after long hours of quiet listening and patient attention.

WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE BEST CHOICES, wherever they may rest. And we will work to continuously improve the job we do of listening to and involving you as partners in caring for Montana's fish, wildlife, and parks. That's our commitment.

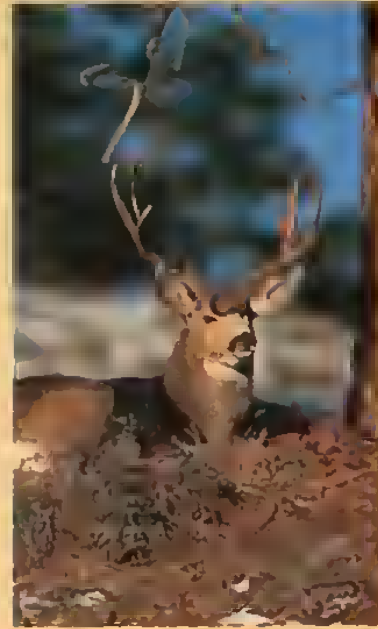
We hope you'll roll up your sleeves and join us again in 2002.

*M. Jeff Hagaman*

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Director



## quality opportunities



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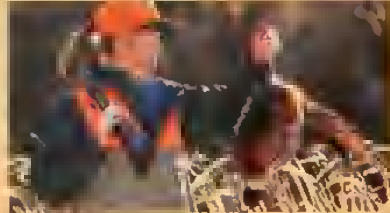


Photo courtesy of FWP

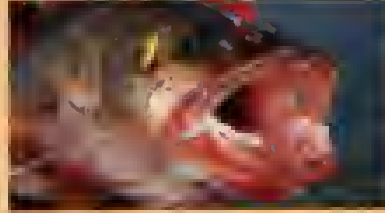


Photo courtesy of FWP

**Big game hunting trips** can be planned online with FWP's "Interactive Hunt Planner." Hunters can select a species, obtain information on regulations, and see the hunting districts displayed on Montana's new digital highway map. Harvest statistics and quotas, special-drawing statistics, and opening and closing dates are a mouse click away. The hunt planner is free at [fwp.state.mt.us](http://fwp.state.mt.us).

**Hunting access** is available on more than 8.6 million acres of land enrolled by nearly 1,100 landowners, with more than 330,000 days of hunting annually on Block Management lands. Access Montana assists Montanans in using more than 33 million acres of legally accessible state and federal land. Together, these programs strengthen partnerships with landowners, land-management agencies, and hunters, and they increase the amount of land accessible to hunters.

The **Automated Licensing System** is developed and will go into service at license agents and FWP regional offices throughout the state in 2002. Once fully on line, the new system will provide all types of licenses—hunting, fishing, state lands recreational use licenses, and Parks Passports—in one place.

**New rules on the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers** better distribute angling and floating pressure by setting specific days, river stretches, and access points for resident use, commercially guided float trips, and nonresident floating anglers. The need to manage recreational pressure on popular Montana streams is expected to continue.

**Resident pheasant hunters** enjoyed two additional days of hunting before the general season opened, in a move by the FWP Commission to increase upland game bird hunting opportunities for the average Montana bird hunter. The commission also capped sales of nonresident upland game bird hunting licenses at 11,000 beginning in 2002. In 2001, 6,466 nonresident upland game bird licenses were sold through December.

Montana's new **bonus-point system** improves the odds in FWP special drawings. Hunters who failed to draw a special big game license in 2001 were able to earn collecting bonus points for a leg up on the next special mouse, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and general nonresident combination license drawings. The voluntary bonus-point system is \$2 for Montana residents and \$25 for nonresidents, payable only with the big game drawing application fees.



Photo courtesy of FWP

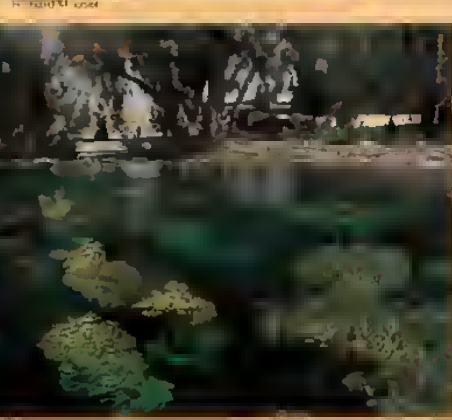
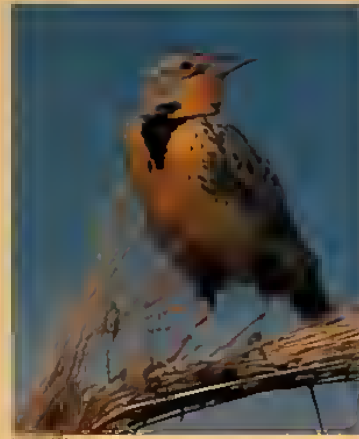


Photo courtesy of FWP

## state parks & trails

The new **Traveler's Rest State Park**, south of Missoula near Lolo, brings the total number of Montana State Parks to 42. The site is a traditional Native American camping area and is tied to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The **Montana State Parks Passport** can now be purchased worldwide on FWP's web site at [fwp.state.mt.us/parks](http://fwp.state.mt.us/parks) or at [discoveringmontana.com](http://discoveringmontana.com). Anyone with a credit card and a driver's license can purchase the passport, which will be mailed within five days.

**Community grant programs** for trails and facilities delivered more than \$1.1 million through 76 grants for recreational trails, off-highway vehicle, and snowmobile trail maintenance and improvement. Montana's first State Trails Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement were adopted to guide future trails planning. More than \$300,000 in Land & Water Conservation Fund grant money went to six municipalities across the state to develop or acquire outdoor recreational facilities.

The **320 Fishing Access Sites** across the state mean nearly every angler has a favorite FAS. In the past two years, FWP has added six new sites and completed about \$700,000 in improvements such as vault toilets, boat ramps, and stream bank protection.

## Montana's native species and habitat

**Mule deer populations** fared better than expected during the winter of 2000-2001, following a summer of drought. Fawn mortality was low due to a mild winter, and many mule deer populations around the state continued to rebound.

**FWP's noxious weed management** expenses totaled more than \$350,000 on FWP lands. Landowners who participate in FWP's Block Management Program will now be eligible to receive a five percent increase in their incentive payment to use exclusively for managing weeds.

The **Fark Peck Hatchery** took a step forward when President George Bush signed an appropriations bill including \$1.5 million for the design and engineering of this proposed \$20 million project. The hatchery will enable the propagation of walleye and other sport fish, as well as native and endangered species such as sauger and pallid sturgeon and other species of concern.

**Montana's Wolf Management Advisory Council**, a group of citizen advisors, has completed a proposed wolf management approach for public review. Their work could lead to a state management plan, required by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service before delisting can occur. Breeding packs of wolves number 35 or more in the Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming recovery area.



Photo courtesy of FWP



Photo courtesy of FWP

**New conservation easements** for wildlife and fish totaled more than 73,000 acres, with another 5,814 acres acquired in the title lands. The Parks Division consolidated holdings at Ulm Park State Park, acquired 327 acres near Banack State Park, acquired mineral rights on 640 acres at Makoshika State Park, added six new Fishing Access Sites, and accepted 320 donated acres in Chouteau County.

**Future Fisheries Improvement** grants totaling \$478,371 were approved for 35 projects across Montana. The projects, when completed, will improve conditions for westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout, as well as walleye and yellow perch, bluegill, and bass.

**Furbearer population management** decisions rely on annual snow-track surveys, which show that pine marten and fisher populations are relatively stable and that weaseline numbers are increasing. Bobcat and lynx populations show recent increases. This lynx was listed federally as a threatened species last year, and FWP biologists will continue to document its status in the state.

**Montana native fish** are getting a boost as FWP builds its management plan to shed more conservation light on native fish populations and habitat. To help spur interest, FWP has produced "Montana Native" bumper stickers, lapel pins, a special Fish of Montana CD, and FWP's Internet-based Bull Trout Education and Identification Program at [fwp.state.mt.us/underfishing](http://fwp.state.mt.us/underfishing).

**FWP's Enforcement Division**, in a 12-month period, processed more than 6,500 violations for nearly \$300,000 in bonds and fines, over \$64,000 in restitution, and over 10,000 months in suspended hunting privileges. Other pending cases will increase these totals. Wardens also spent thousands of hours preventing infraction at Hunter Education classes and other public forums, assisting at fishing tournaments, snowmobile and boating events, and helping landowners with game damage and other issues.



Photo courtesy of FWP



Photo courtesy of FWP



Photo courtesy of FWP

